THE PLACE NAMES AND EARLY TOPOGRAPHY OF BURGESS HILL

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INTRODUCTION

The greater part of modern Burgess Hill has developed out of the Wealden commons and demesne woodlands belonging to three ancient settlements at the foot of the South Downs, namely Clayton, Keymer and Ditchling. The evolution of its minor names presents an interesting study, for some were affected by changes in the topography long before the birth of the Victorian town, while others have been directly affected by the town's growth. The role that the area has played in the history of Sussex has been obscured owing to the difficulty of relating old names to present-day places. This article aims to place former names in their modern context and vice versa.

While the centre of Burgess Hill has developed from common land, much of the outskirts of the town was once farmland. Although it is not in the scope of this study to trace the evolution of agricultural settlement in the area, this has nevertheless been a necessary preliminary. A substantial series of 17th- to 19th-century records of the local manors was first examined. Their strict adherence to outdated terminology and custom made it possible to separate out the oldest farms within the town's boundary (the customary virgates of Clayton, Keymer and Wickham manors), the medieval 'inholmes' (mainly in Ditchling manor) and the Tudor and later intakes of the waste. The manorial information having been collated with the 19th-century tithe and enclosure maps and with modern maps, the theories were tested out on the ground with the help of a good network of local footpaths. As a result, the names and locations have been discovered of the former woods and commons which are now 'Burgess Hill'.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUND

Burgess Hill is situated on the clay of the Low Weald about 10 miles north of Brighton (Fig.1). To its south and west the scenery is well ordered and relatively treeless. To the east lies Ditchling Common, sole survivor of what was once a continuous belt of common land stretching across several parishes. To the north, even today, the countryside is well wooded. For here the Low Weald clay gives way to a stratum of Upper Tunbridge Wells sands, causing the streams to cut deep, their bedrock stained black with iron ore.

The clay of the Burgess Hill area, its administrative history and its postion in central Sussex were all important factors in its development. The clay plateau central to the present town had been avoided by early settlers who preferred the valleys of the Pookbourne stream and river Adur on either side of the ridge; in consequence the clay plateau evolved as common land.

Burgess Hill had no kind of self-government until the late 19th century.[1] Any appraisal of the 'prehistory' of the town must therefore be drawn from the records of the older administrations of the area. These were, principally, the manors of Clayton, Keymer and Ditchling, and the parishes of Clayton-cum-Keymer (one parish for tithe and ecclesiastical taxation) and of Ditchling. The outline boundaries of each manor were largely the same as those of its parish. Certainly this is true within modern

PLACE NAMES OF BURGESS HILL

Fig. 1.   Location of Burgess Hill and its relationship to the older parishes and to the geology of the area.

Burgess Hill where, with the exception of a portion of West End farm which was held of Wickham manor in Clayton, the old south-north bounds of Clayton, Keymer and Ditchling are manorial as well as parochial (Fig.1).[2] Each manor also had outliers further north in the Weald which are not relevant to this study. For the purpose of civil administration Clayton and Keymer came within the hundred of Buttinghill, while Ditchling was in the hundred of Streat, both within the barony and rape of Lewes.

Unlike the more easterly manors of West-meston, Streat and Plumpton, where seigniorial interest was locally strong, Clayton and Keymer were in the multiple ownership of absentee lords.[3] Their commons therefore escaped the enclosure movements of the 16th and early 17th centuries. But the growth of Brighton in the late 18th century drew several trans-Wealden turn-pike routes to its bosom, among them the route south from Cuckfield across 'St. John's Common' cut in 1770.[4] In its wake speculative interest was aroused and in 1828 the Keymer part of the common was enclosed.[5] The subsequent quest for a rail link between London and Brighton resulted in the adoption of John Rennie's 'direct' route by way of Burgess Hill and, after an early hiccough, a permanent station was provided by 1844, thus paving the way for the urbanization which still continues.[6] The Clayton part of the common was enclosed in 1857,[7] and by the last quarter of the 19th century Burgess Hill was a self-sufficient community with its own clay-based industries.[8]

STOTTESFORDE, STUDFORDE OR STARFORD HEATH

The former commons upon which the centre and the west of Burgess Hill now stand were known in the 19th century at the time of enclosure as 'St. John's Common' (Fig.2). The name had evolved a few centuries earlier, and had been first added to, and then had gradually supplanted, an older name. This older name, which describes exactly the same area, was still in constant use in the 17th century, and is recorded as Stutford(e), Sturford(e), Stud-ford(e), Stutford(e) Common, Starford(s) Heath, Sturford alias St. John's Common and Starford Heath alias St. John's Common.[9] By the 18th century, however, the old name had been almost totally edged out. In the period 1720–32 the manorial court books refer to it only once, in its latest and most debased form, Starfords Heath, while references to St. John's Common abound.[10]

The medieval form of the old name was usually Stottesforde or Stuttesforde. Its earliest record occurs in the hundred roll of 1275 (hundred of Buttinghill) where it was stated that Geoffrey de Breyboef had apportioned to himself half a rod of land 'from the highway at Stottesford'.[11] In the Clayton halmote (i.e. manor court) roll of 1344 an acre of land lying 'at the common of Stotte(sf)orde' is mentioned.[12] Ditchling's halmote, in the same composite roll, cites the complaint of one John Ketel regarding money owed him for goods sold. In 1342 Ketel had gone 'on the feast of blessed John the Baptist . . . to Stuttesforde . . . and he came there in order to buy and sell wares as he had been licensed to do by the Lord's steward'. This is clearly a reference, and the earliest yet found, to the midsummer fair held on Fairplace Hill until the present century (see below, St. John's Common).

The remaining references from the early medieval period are to be found in the surname of the family which lived at the bottom of Fairplace Hill in, or at the site of, modern Bridge Hall. Here a ford must once have existed, but today the river Adur flows rather obscurely in a narrow channel beneath the Hayward's Heath to Clayton road (A 273). The family owned land on both banks of the river, and were accordingly known as (de) Stottes-ford(e) or (de) Stuttesford(e). The earliest reference available is in 1266 to Osbert de Stuttesford (wrongly rendered as Scuttesford in transcript).[13] He is followed by Richard de Stottesforde whose name appears as witness to
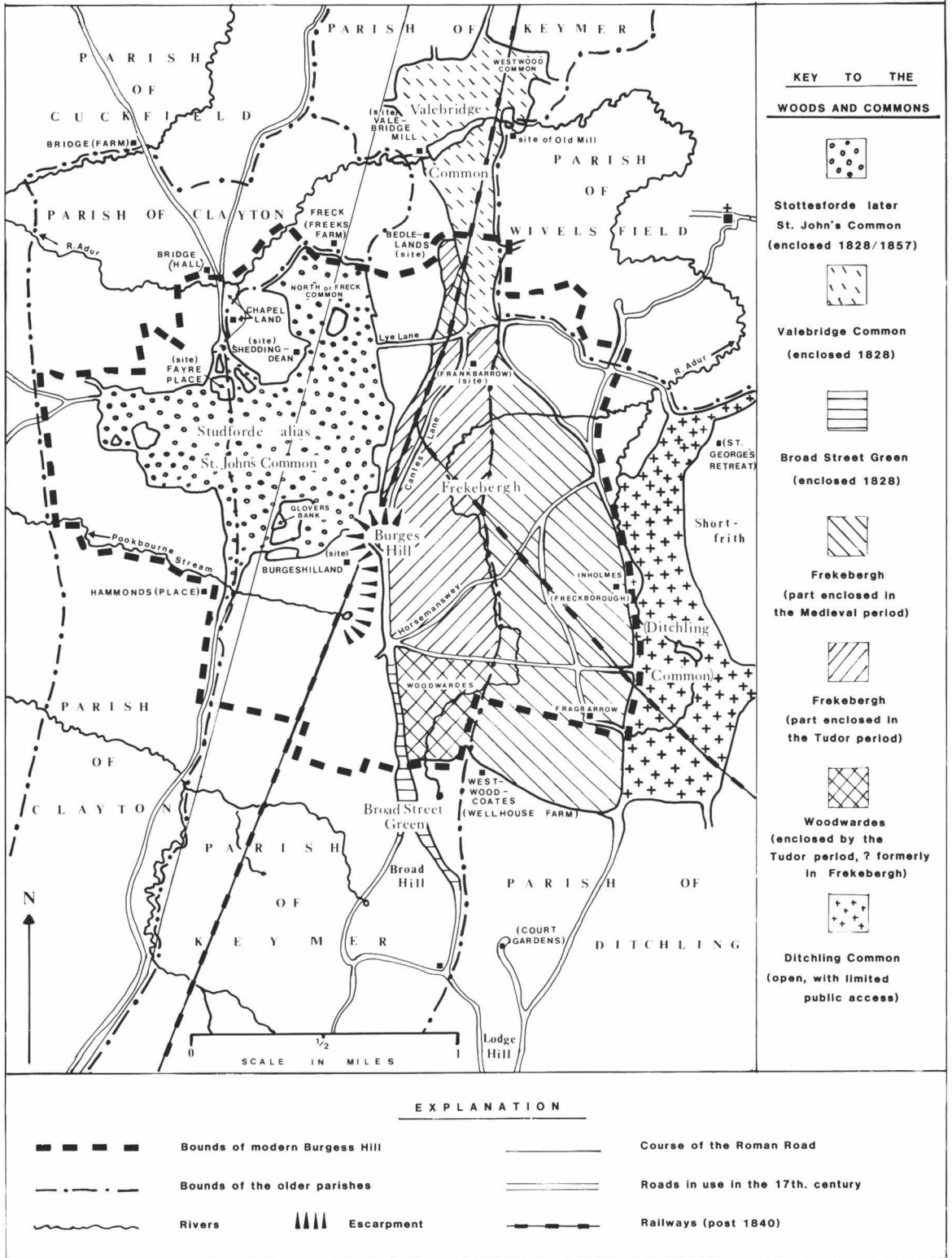
Fig. 2. Location of the former woods and commons of Burgess Hill, showing the extent of the commons in the mid 17th century and the roads and minor names then in use (modern names in brackets). The railway is added as a modern reference point.

two deeds c. 1300 [14] and who appears in the lay subsidy for 1296 as Richard de Stuttesf' (wrongly rendered as Stutteff' in transcript). [15] In 1343–4 a John (de) Stuttesforde/Stottesforde appears in the Cuckfield halmote roll, as Bridge Hall (in Clayton parish) was then held of that manor. [16] Finally, an informative deed of 1393 survives whereby Agnes Stotesford, one of the three daughters and coheirs of John Stotesford, conveyed her land to Thomas Holcoumbe. [17] His family, later known as Holcombe alias Anstye, were to be found at Bridge Farm, as it was then called, until the end of the 17th century. [18]

The existence of a chapel on the common, known as St. John's chapel (see below, St. John's Common), may have ultimately caused the disappearance of the old name Stottesforde, but its decline began with the failure of John Stotesforde to produce any male heirs; with the death or marriage of Agnes and her two sisters the family name died out locally. However, the topographical name as a description of both the common and its fair held fast throughout the later medieval and Tudor periods. In 1400 there is a reference to 'Stotesforde wake', in 1465–6 to 'Stottisforde Fair' [19] and in 1481 to 'Stotford Fair'. [20] In 1563 'Studefortheheath' is cited along with several Wealden and coastal (marshland) parishes in which the Michelbornes, a family of influential 'agri-businessmen', owned common of pasture for 200 oxen and 90 sheep. [21]

The textually very corrupt barony of Lewes account rolls (c. 1400–1534) contain a number of unusual forms for the name of the common, such as 'Setteford' and 'Stutfeld'. Some of them also refer to the farm (i.e. lease) of the fishery of Stotesforde and Wyvelsfelde, but the same entry appears in other versions of the accounts as Stotesforde *in* Wyvelsfelde. [22] The correct version must be the former. Stotesforde was entirely in Clayton and Keymer. Wivelsfield was the adjacent parish about one mile upstream from the river crossing, so a fishery of Stotesforde *and* Wivelsfield would have been feasible.

The original name Stottesforde derives from O.E. *stott* meaning 'horse' and *ford* whose meaning has evolved unchanged. Beyond this the precise meaning is open to conjecture. The name may derive from *Stott* used as an Anglo-Saxon personal name, thus implying habitation near the ford in Saxon times; [23] although the common was still open in the 19th century, there are indications from the manorial records that the riverside was colonized early. Alternatively, the name might imply that horses were grazed out in sufficiently large numbers on the commons for the nearby ford to take their name by association. Tottsmarsh in Bexhill contains the same element *stott* with perhaps a similar implication of grazing. *Stot* remained in general use as a word for a heavy plough-horse or pack-horse until the later medieval period and it is perhaps this latter sense of 'pack-horse' that is most relevant to the ford, which lay on the main spinal route leading north into the Weald from Clayton village (now the A 273). Clayton itself lies below one of the significant dips in the downs scarp which has been used for access between coast and Weald at least from Roman times. [24]

There is no positive information as to when the ford was replaced by a bridge, although the existence of a bridge in early medieval times may be inferred. Osbert de Stuttesford appeared as a *plegius* (standing bail for a third party) in the barony court in 1266 along with his neighbour, one 'John of Bridge of Cuckfield'. [25] The use of the parish to define this surname is understandable if it was to distinguish between the two neighbours. For there were (and are still) two adjoining Bridge Farms. The Cuckfield one lay about a mile north of the Clayton (i.e. de Stuttesford's) one, on another tributary of the Adur.

In 1530–1 'Stutfordes Brugge' and 'Stottesfordebroke' were mentioned in abuttals of deeds, [26] but later it seems the same fate was destined for the bridge as for the common. In 1702 it was 'St. John's Bridge sometimes called Stutford Bridge'. [27] A Quarter Sessions order of 1709, while referring to it as 'a horsebridge

called St. John's Bridge', declared that it should be replaced by a 'wayne bridge' for the greater convenience of its users. [28] After this the old name disappeared completely and it remained 'St. John's Bridge' until the present century.

ST. JOHN'S COMMON

A ring of 16th-century cottages around the edges of old Stottesforde had been followed by one or two intakes of land for brickmaking, milling and the erection of poorhouses, but in broad outline the common stood in 1828 on the eve of enclosure in much the same shape as it had been two centuries earlier (Fig. 2). Its old name was by then, however, quite forgotten. The community of small farmers and traders living around its edges was known as 'St. John's Common', as the 18th- and 19th-century diarists Thomas Marchant of Hurstpierpoint and John Burgess of Ditchling testify when recording their visits there. [29]

Even further afield the name 'St. John's Common' could stand on its own without reference to parish, for the twelve brick and tile manufacturers supplying the new Stanmer House near Brighton between 1722 and 1727 included 'James Parker of St. John's Commons'. [30] Parker was in fact operating his business from the part of the common which lay in Keymer parish, but this fact was irrelevant to the Pelham family accountant and was therefore not noted. The part played by the Burgess Hill area in the erection of Stanmer House (outstripping all other contenders from outside Brighton in 1726 by supplying 14,400 bricks and 2,000 tiles) has hitherto tended to be overlooked. [31]

The use of the plural 'commons' in this instance was unusual. The manorial records favoured the singular, although the phrase 'commons of St. John's' was used in 1623 where the boundary between the Keymer part and the Clayton part was in dispute. [32] The use of the simple 'Keymer Common' and 'Clayton Common' was equally rare, causing the identity of 'Keymer Common' to be questioned in at least one modern instance. [33]

The earliest references that can be found for the appellation 'St. John's' date from the end of the 16th century, as, for example, c. 1582 'the common of Saint Joans', [34] or in 1589 'the Lord's waste called Seynt John's Common'. [35] The Bergavenny accounts contain entries from 1588 under Keymer manor regarding the mining of iron ore from 'St. Jones Common' and from the neighbouring tenement of Stephen Gynner, [36] while from 1594 to 1600 the same accounts note receipts from the various barony of Lewes fairs at 'Cokefield', 'Dichning', 'Brighthempston' and 'St. Jones'. [37]

Among these sources it is the first, a survey commissioned c. 1582 for George Goring and Edward Bellingham as joint owners of a quarter of the manor of Keymer, which makes the derivation of the name quite clear, for it refers to several cottages situated 'near ye chappell of St. Jones' or 'in the common at St. Jones Chappell'. [38] These tenements can be identified with properties in the Fairplace Hill area, where now stands, on an east-west alignment, 'Chapel Farm' (Fig.3; TQ 308201).

When the extant Keymer court records begin in 1602 Chapel Farm was no more than a copyhold tenement known as 'Chappelhouse in Studford Common'. A clue to its previous history, however, can be detected in Letters Patent of 1592 from Queen Elizabeth I to two London gentlemen, William Tipper and Robert Dawe, who were thereby granted the rents of various pre-Reformation endowments in Sussex. In the list is 'Keymer—The Chapel of St. John Rent 8d.'. Evidence to show that pre-Reformation chapels could be converted to other uses is provided by another entry in the same list which refers to the 'late chapel of St. Nicholas (in Lewes) . . . now converted into a tenement'. [39]

The structure of Chapel Farm is timber-framed, showing signs of extension westwards and the addition of an upper floor and staircases probably contemporary with the chimneys

Fig. 3.   Chapel Farm, London Road, Burgess Hill.

(? 16th-century). The entire roof was visible from the inside during building alterations in 1984. It showed no sign of soot, which may indicate a non-domestic use of the earlier part of the building. In the eastern section, the two central cross-beams are of a curious arched shape. If this part was indeed the original chapel it was a simple structure measuring no more than 27 by 15 ft.[40]

Sufficient records survive from the early 14th century to indicate that population in the St. John's Common area was as great then as it was two centuries later.[41] As the locality was several miles distant from its parish churches of Clayton and Keymer, there would seem good reason for the provision of a chapel of ease. Moreover, it is noticeable that there is a footpath link between Chapel Farm and Wivels-field church (the latter established as a chapel of ease to Ditchling).[42] Such a route may well have evolved for the convenience of priests ministering to their scattered Wealden flocks.

The quest for the origins of St. John's chapel is hampered not so much by the paucity of medieval records as by the fact that Keymer itself was a daughter parish to Clayton and was usually referred to either as a perpetual curacy attached to Clayton or as a 'chapel'. 'Kymere Chapel' was mentioned in the 13th-century Taxation of Pope Nicholas, and in the 16th-century Valor Ecclesiasticus, but in both cases the parish and its parish church was meant.[43] The Keymer halmote roll of 1344 contains names of several tenants of the manor who owed money to Simon Coupere 'procurator' of and 'collector of the pence' due to 'the chapel of Kymere'.[44] The money was to be used to provide a missal for the chapel. It could be argued that Keymer church might already be equipped with such an item and that the levy was in aid of the newer Wealden chapel, but it cannot be proved on the evidence as yet available.

Chapel Farm was in Keymer parish (Fig.2),

but it was one of two adjacent plots, both called 'Chapelland'. The parish boundary swung eastward here, running between them and leaving the westerly plot in Clayton. Under 'decayed rents' of Clayton manor in the surviving barony of Lewes accounts of the 15th and 16th centuries two former rents were noted which seem to relate to office rather than property. One of these was a rent called 'Chapelman'.[45] This should probably be linked to the taxpayer of Clayton and Keymer in 1327 listed as Walter Capelman and his predecessor Richard de la Chapell in 1296.[46] The precise significance of the rent remains obscure, but it may in effect have given the tenants of Clayton manor at St. John's Common a stake in the chapel. When the Ven. James Garbutt set up his Sunday services (in the schoolroom) for the expanding 19th-century population at St. John's Common, to save them the long journey to church at Clayton or Keymer village, it might have seemed a complete innovation.[47] Yet it seems that the innovation had come centuries earlier, and that Garbutt was simply reviving what had been a natural solution to the problems of Wealden travel.

To pursue the name 'St. John's' to its ultimate origin it is probably correct to look from the chapel across modern London Road, or Fairplace Hill as it is still known locally, to the site of the old barony of Lewes annual fair.[48] This survived as a sheep fair until 1913 and was originally held on Midsummer Day on the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist; its existence as early as 1342 can be inferred from an entry in the Ditchling halmote roll of 1344 (see above, Stottesforde), but there is no record of its foundation. The ratification which John, Earl de Warenne, obtained in 1313 for various markets and fairs in the barony of Lewes does not include this one,[49] and no further new grants of fairs can be traced in the charter rolls at the Public Record Office as having been awarded him between 1313 and 1342. The site of the 'Fayre Place' is of interest for it is dissected by the Clayton/Keymer parish

boundary, thus raising the possibility that man's use of the site may predate the creation of the parishes.[50]

It should be noted that the parish church of Clayton is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. An obvious course of events would have been, therefore, that both the fair and the nearby chapel were dedicated to the same saint as the parish church. Interestingly, however, a charter of c. 1181 refers to 'the church of All Saints of Claitune with the church of Blessed Mary of Kimera attached to it'.[51] Both those churches have therefore since changed their dedication, Keymer now being dedicated to Sts. Cosmas and Damian. The case therefore rests that it was the ancient Midsummer St. John's fair which conferred its name to the nearby chapel and that the entire common took on the name by association, perhaps out of a sense of nostalgia on the part of the locals once the amenity of the chapel had been denied them by the Reformation.

MINOR NAMES IN ST. JOHN'S COMMON

The evidence for early use of minor names within the common is patchy. Marginal areas were frequently referred to by the name of their nearest feature such as 'le Fayre Place' which has already been discussed. 'The Lords Common of Burgeshill' mentioned in 1589 was not a separate entity, but was the part of St. John's Common which lay near 'Burgeshill' (see below, Burgess Hill).[52] 'North Common' or 'Freck Common' was the northern protrusion of St. John's Common leading towards Freck Farm (Freeks/Lowlands Farm).[53]

Boundary disputes between Clayton tenants and Keymer tenants have allowed us a glimpse of the Tudor topography in the area of modern London Road. 'Groveland corner', 'le longe lawne', 'Short Crosse' and 'Jenners Corner' (at Fairplace Hill) were mentioned as on the boundary in 1568, while in 1576 the same boundary is defined as leading from 'Hamons gate (Hammonds Place) to a cross called le longe crosse' and on 'to le cross house of St.

John's' (Chapel Farm).[54] When the same bounds were defined in 1828 several crosses were mentioned 'following the course of an old bank'.[55]

The centre of the common seems to have eluded definition until the coming of some small-scale brickmaking in the 17th century and the erection of St. John's Windmill in the 18th century. One name may pre-date these however. 'Glovers Bank' described the locality on which some 16th-century cottages held of Keymer manor had been built.[56] This was the rising ground now known as 'The Brow' on which the town's central office development has since taken place, and over which the course of the 'London–Brighton' Roman road was visible until recent years.[57]

VALEBRIDGE COMMON

Valebridge Common was a wedge-shaped piece of land lying to the north-east of St. John's Common (Fig. 2). It was enclosed in 1828 along with the Keymer part of St. John's Common, and c.1840 the railway was built across it. Today its southern end lies within Burgess Hill and has been developed for housing, but its northern end remains as agricultural land.

No medieval references to Valebridge have as yet been forthcoming. It has been suggested that Valebridge may take its name from the family of Thomas Vale of Wivelsfield who was mentioned in the South Malling manor court books.[58] This is unlikely for the South Malling manor had no land in the vicinity of Valebridge. The common was entirely in the manor of Keymer, and was bounded by farmland held of the manors of Clayton, Keymer, Houndean (in Lewes) and Ditchling. No members of the Vale family have been recorded as tenants of the farms in question. It is more likely that the Vale family itself originated from Vale Farm in Lindfield. Early medieval habitation there and the emergence of a toponymic surname are indicated by the names Laurence de la Wale (1296)

and Walter atte Vale (1327 and 1332) listed in the lay subsidies. These names occur alongside others who can be associated with farms of that locality today, for instance Pelling(bridge), Noven and Bineham.[59]

The bridge over the Adur from which the common is apparently named is first recorded in 1530 as 'Valebrygge'.[60] There were two river crossings at Valebridge prior to enclosure in 1828. The easterly crossed what had once been the bay of the 'Old Mill' pond (the mill was defunct by 1604), while the westerly crossed the bay of the newer mill pond. This had been built in 1606 about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile downstream to replace its predecessor.[61] The easterly crossing, now carrying the modern road and flanked by the Eight Arches railway viaduct, in being the older of the two, can lay claim to be the original 'Valebridge'. Citing a reference dated 1573–4 John Rowe noted that the tenants of Keymer manor were liable for the repair of the bridge,[62] but by the 18th century it is possible that this public liability had been transferred to the crossing over the new millpond bay (which exists today as a public footpath). Between 1745 and 1747 John Welfare, the miller at Valebridge, successfully defended himself at Quarter Sessions against the charge of non-repair of the bridge over the millpond (presumably meaning the currently functional 'new' millpond) and the parishioners of Keymer were found liable instead.[63]

As late as the 19th century 'Old Mill' was still being noted as a site on the Theobalds Estate in Wivelsfield, to which it belonged.[64] On the north side of its pond lay a part of Valebridge Common generally known as 'Westwood Common' between the 16th and 19th centuries, a name which has proved misleading to modern scholarship.[65]

In referring to the common as a whole, the Keymer manor court books are mostly consistent in the name Valebridge; 'Varlebridge' and 'Farbridge' are occasional variants. Other 18th- and 19th-century sources prefer the alternative 'Walebridge'. The forms Wale-

bridge, Whalebridge, Wellbridge, Wailsbridge and Vails Bridge are to be found in 19th-century electoral registers, Census returns and deposited plans.[66] The early histories of Sussex cite Walbridge as an alternative to Valebridge,[67] while Stephen Vine, writing in the *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1781 on the presumed course of a Roman road, asserted that it 'crosses Walebridge Mill stream about a furlong below the mill'.[68] The use of the *w* and the proximity of the Roman road, which has since been confirmed by Margary's fieldwork,[69] raises the possibility that the name may reflect a late Romano-British presence at the river crossing and thus derive from O.E. *Walh* (Briton) and *brug* (bridge). However, it should be noted that *v* and *w* were commonly interchangeable in Sussex dialect. The lack of early examples makes certain judgement impossible.

The part of Burgess Hill east of Wivelsfield station is now called Worlds End, a name apparently not recorded before 1865.[70] According to local tradition it originated from the railway navvies who found the area little to their liking. Prior to enclosure of the common, however, this locality was simply known as 'Valebridge' or 'at Lye Lane', which was the ancient route leading from St. John's Common.[71]

FREKEBERGH

Frekebergh was a large tract of woodland, known in medieval times as a 'free chase',[72] belonging to the lords of Lewes barony; it originally lay partly in the manor and parish of Ditchling and partly in the manor and parish of Keymer. However, in 1934 Burgess Hill was extended eastwards so that nearly all Frekebergh now lies within the town's boundaries (Fig. 2). It was one of two parallel chases, separated from each other by Ditchling Common. The easterly one, known as Shortfrith (i.e. short wood), was in fact far shorter than Frekebergh and has evolved into 'St. George's Retreat' and its surrounding farmland on the north-eastern side of Ditchling Common.

It is still possible to walk virtually the whole length of its old boundary ditch which is on the common side of the fence.

It has been possible to define Frekebergh, which to date has never been satisfactorily located, by listing the various 'inholmes' (intakes of new land for farming) which are described in the 16th- and 17th-century manorial records of Ditchling and Keymer as '(formerly) in Frekebergh' and by tracing their ownership to the present century. There is, however, very little surviving documentation to indicate precise boundaries. The railway line between Burgess Hill and Wivelsfield stations runs near Frekebergh's western edge, but its construction and the subsequent urban development have obscured most traces of the bounds.[73] In the field immediately west of Wivelsfield station the boundary has been ascertained by locating a former cottage described by John Rowe as 'one parcel of the waste in Frekeborowe containing $\frac{1}{2}$ rod at 1d. rent, late Geeres'.[74] This is one of the more useful references for defining medieval and Tudor Frekebergh, for the adjoining tenement to the west was not part of Frekebergh, but was an ancient customary quarter virgate, part of 'Lyelandes'.

Continuing northwards Frekebergh is detectable as a lower strip of land running parallel with the railway. Beyond this at Bedlelands gipsy site a ditched causeway leads to the deserted farm site of Bedlelands. Although the contours in this vicinity may have been altered by railway construction, this causeway probably represents the northern boundary of Frekebergh in medieval times. For Bedlelands is described in an account roll of Keymer manor in 1420 as 'on the north side of Frekebergh'.[75] A right-of-way dispute in 1344 cites the 'horsedike' at Bedlelands, which almost certainly refers to this ditched way.[76]

Returning south, the part of old Valebridge Common now within Burgess Hill may have once been part of Frekebergh. Thereafter the bridleway and footpaths behind Manor Road,

leading down the edge of Ditchling Common to Folders Lane, represent Frekebergh's eastern limit. It is interesting how old boundaries can reassert themselves, for this was the line adopted in 1934 for the eastern limit of Burgess Hill, and now, following local government re-organization in 1974, has become part of the county boundary between East and West Sussex.

The southern boundary of Frekebergh is problematical, and opens up questions about the pre-Conquest history of this woodland. It is noticeable that Frekebergh formed part of a strip of demesne land several miles long stretching north and south of the head of Ditchling manor, while the tenants' land lay predominantly in a parallel strip to the east. Fragbarrow Farm, south of Folders Lane, can be identified as an early medieval grant out of Frekebergh.[77] On its south and west lie other lands in both Keymer and Ditchling which appear to have originated as early medieval grants out of demesne, the most notable being the endowments made to Lewes Priory by William de Warenne. What has evolved as Court Gardens and Wellhouse farms was given to the Priory in the 11th century by de Warenne along with 'free pasture [for the monks] for all their beasts and cattle . . . in the woodland clearings and in all my neighbouring grazing lands which belong to my manor of Dichelinges and of Chiemera'.[78] Such medieval grants may well have been taken from a larger, Saxon, Frekebergh covering the Lodge Hill/Broad Hill end of the ridge (Fig. 2) as well as the more northerly Burgess Hill. Forming part, as it did, of a Saxon royal manor it may have functioned as a royal hunting ground, but after the Conquest it appears to have been surplus to requirements. Although it was described as a 'free chase', the implications from the priory endowments and the piecemeal sales are that the de Warennes had little personal interest in it, other chases being more conveniently placed for their baronial seat of Lewes Castle.

Both Frekebergh and Ditchling Park, which lay further to the south in the same demesne block, were divided between Ditchling and Keymer manors, a fact which suggests that they may be older estates than the separate manors. The dividing up and the later manorialization of the great Saxon royal estates is a process observed by J. E. A. Jolliffe and later studied in a Wealden context by K. P. Witney.[79] The layout of manorial tenements at Keymer village shows there was little scope for peasant settlement there, the tenants' land being hemmed in on all sides by large blocks in demesne ownership.[80] It is possible therefore that Keymer as a manor (and as a chapelry which never achieved full parish status) is of late Saxon origin. Indeed its name, which is found as late as the 17th century as Chemor and in an 18th-century source as 'Emmer', may encapsulate the Saxon word (ge)-maera (boundaries), in reflection of this.[81]

At the north end of medieval Frekebergh the Keymer tenement 'Bedlelands' was so called because its tenant had to perform the office of beadle for the manor.[82] Beyond Bedlelands was Freeks Farm ('atte Ferghthe' (1343), 'le Frekegh', 'Fricke', 'Freck') in Clayton parish.[83] It is a logical explanation of the name, and one suggested by Mawer and Stenton, that this farm once lay on the edge of Frekebergh.[84] If so, Keymer's Bedlelands was itself an allocation out of Frekebergh, made perhaps at the creation of the new manor, while the whole of Valebridge Common which is in the same alignment as Frekebergh may once have belonged to this demesne woodland. While such theses are conjectural, they nevertheless serve to remind us that the history we are able to construe about Frekebergh is only its latter end.

Piecemeal sales from Frekebergh began early in the medieval period and by 1415 there were only about 200–250 a. of 'free chase' left.[85] Gulley, identifying Frekebergh only with Fragbarrow Farm, stated that it was completely disparked by the end of the 15th century, while Brandon has added that the enclosures were of early medieval date judging from the 1d. an acre

rents.[86] This was probably true of the Ditchling side where none of the Frekebergh 'inholmes' described in 1624 by John Rowe were stated to be recent intakes. Mention of various members of the de Frekeburgh family between 1266 and 1327 indicates that colonization of the former chase had indeed started early.[87]

On the Keymer side at least 245 a. were still demesne woodland and scrub at the start of the 16th century. This lay in a compact block stretching from Folders Lane north to 'Lye Lane' (Leylands Road). In 1507 the southern-most wedge of this band, a triangle abutting north on to 'Horsemansway' (Birchwood Grove Road) was sold off (at 1d. an acre rent). The rest remained in hand until the 1570s when Richard Michelborne began a series of purchases.[88] This part came to be known as 'Cantes' or 'Lez Cantes', a word formerly used in woodland management to denote plots marked out for cropping and timber sales.[89] Another part of the same block, 'Cantes alias Fraggbarrowe waste with a little house in it', was in the demesne ownership of George Goring and Edward Bellingham in 1582 when they succeeded to a quarter of the manor of Keymer.[90] This was the part which evolved as Frankbarrow farm, of which the farmhouse has now been demolished and replaced by Stirling Court Road and vicinity.

The earliest reference to the two woodlands Shortfrith and Frekebergh is in a Lewes Priory charter of c. 1090 where they are called the 'Frith and Frekeberge'.[91] Both names contain the O.E. element *fyrhth* (wood) (M.E. *frith*), a word frequently found in names of old demesne woods and chases.[92] Thereafter the name Frekebergh (see also below, Burgess Hill) is found in many variant forms. The medieval and Tudor variants were mainly to be found in com- binations of Freke/Freg/Frag/Fracke and burghe/berghe/berthe/boroughe/borrowe.[93] After the 17th century, however, when the piecemeal enclosure of the area was complete, the origins and meaning of Frekebergh were progressively forgotten. Frank/Free and bar/ barren were added to the variants.[94] Frekebergh disappeared as an identifiable area, and it is only due to the legal minds of the manorial scribes that phrases such as 'formerly in' or 'out of the soil of' Frekebergh continued for a while to be added to the descriptions of the numerous inholmes and new cottage plots. By the present century Frekebergh had slipped into almost total obscurity with nothing to show for its former status but the names of three farms: the recently named Freckborough (formerly 'In- holmes'), Fragbarrow, and the now demolished Frankbarrow.

BURGESS HILL

Stottesforde or St. John's Common and the farms around its perimeter, Valebridge Common and Frekebergh covered the ground over which the name Burgess Hill has now been imposed. It is not a modern name, but in the past its meaning was strictly limited. It specifically described the hill above the railway station at the 'top' of the present town, on which Hoadleys Corner and Keymer Road are situated. The hill is the northern promontory of a Greensand ridge which strikes north-west from Lodge Hill, Ditchling. The sandstone is heavily clay-capped except at the scarp near the station where it has been quarried, while a form of 'winklestone' or Sussex marble can be found a little to the south, near Franklands mansion.[95]

In defining for the first time the extent of Frekebergh it has emerged that the hill of Burgess Hill was within Frekebergh, and was indeed the only geographical feature of note within its bounds. It is possible to argue therefore that the second element of Frekebergh and the first of Burgess Hill both derive from the same topography, namely the hill (O.E. *beorg*). It should be observed, however, that in Saxon times Frekebergh probably commenced nearer Ditchling village (see above, Frekebergh), so that the hill in the name Freke- bergh may be Lodge Hill, or the ridge as a whole. Moreover, the final development of the

name 'Burgess Hill' casts serious doubt on the possibility of a philological as well as a geographical link between the two names.[96]

The Keymer manor court records, commencing in full series in 1598, contain references both to the hill *per se,* 'Burgeshill', and to a large farm on its west side, 'Burgeshilland'.[97] The crown of the hill and its north and east sides were still part of Frekebergh in the early 1500s. The north-west side had been granted out of the lord's hands in 1468 as a new 'inholme' (later Yew Tree Farm, Grove Road area) 'lying at Burghille'.[98] This reference provides the earliest record available for the name of the hill itself. A cottage on the north scarp and another on the approach from the south were granted out in the 16th century, the first described as 'at Frekeborowe' (site now in Junction Road), the second as 'at Burgeshill' (now 'Farthings' in Keymer Road).[99] The farm on the west side consisted of one and a half customary virgates, and a new intake there in 1523 was described as 'next Burchethille'.[100] A little later, when records begin in full series, the property was called 'Hachers lying at Burgeshill' or 'Burgeshilland'.[101] This last was the usual form of reference *c.*1600 in the Keymer court books. There also survives an 18th-century copy of some earlier court rolls, in which the forms Burghes/Burges/Burgesehilland are given for 1523, 1534 and 1565 respectively.[102] It might appear from all these references that the farm was inevitably named from the hill. However, in 1440 the property was described as 'one yard of land called Burgeyseslond and a half yard called Fountelande'.[103] This links the property with one John Burgeys whose name appears in the lay subsidy for Clayton and Keymer in the years 1296, 1327 and 1332.[104]

The similarity between 'Burgesse', an early form of Burwash, and Burgess Hill led Professor Maitland wrongly to ascribe the events of a 13th-century plea as having taken place at Burgess Hill, an error later corrected by Walter Renshaw.[105] Further comparison is invited by several of the medieval forms for Burwash, such as Burgese, Burghesse and Burgheys, which are judged to derive from *burh* (a defended place) and *ersc* (corn stubble).[106] Moreover, the early topography of the two places must have been similar, each being hilly, Wealden woodland, partly devoted to hunting, but also containing some tilled land.[107]

The western boundary of Burgess Hill farm was formed by the *agger* of the Roman road, and the occurrence of 'Fountelande' as part of the farm, a name which contains the Latin loan-word *funta* (spring), may indicate some pre-Saxon settlement there, and so merit the use of the word *burh* to describe the topography.[108] But while 'Burghille' or 'Burgheshilland' suggest there may have been a toponymic origin for John Burgeys's surname,[109] the later development of the name seems to negate this and to point to the more obvious assumption, namely that it was of French origin, meaning 'burgess'. For a toponymic derivation of 'Burgeys' to be considered, it would have to be assumed that the name had later been mis-interpreted as 'burgess', and pronounced accordingly. The single word form with single *s* gradually gave way via an intermediate 'Burgis-hill' in the 17th century[110] to the modern version in two words which was fully established by the 18th century. Rennie's railway plan of 1837 is alone among 19th-century sources in using another intermediate form, 'Burges Hill'.[111]

It is not readily apparent why 'Burgess Hill' emerged as the modern name for what was described in 1906 by an observer as 'the twin towns of St. Johns Common and Burgess Hill'.[112] Most of the early development took place on St. John's Common, and it was there that the first parish church was built in 1863, a cause for objection by the residents of Burgess Hill who thought it too far away. Dedicated in 1865, it became 'The District Chapelry of St. John the Evangelist at St. John's Common'.[113] Kelly's *Directories*, electoral rolls and Ordnance Survey maps of the last quarter of the 19th century continued to distinguish between the two areas. This was echoed by several local organizations

serving the new town such as 'The Burgess Hill and St. John's Common Gas Company' which still functioned under that name as late as 1949.[114]

Two factors may be singled out as significant in the rise of 'Burgess Hill'. Firstly, the railway line was constructed to cut through one side of the hill itself, so that the station, opened in 1843, was very naturally called Burgess Hill. This would have boosted the name by causing the whole of the developing area to be known elsewhere by the name of its station. The second factor was that St. John's Common itself was embarking on a mixed programme of development, with gentlemen's villas competing alongside brick- and tileworks for pride of place. By contrast, the hill was a safer investment, protected by restrictive covenants such as those in 1859 which prevented the purchaser of development land (in the Inholmes Park Road area) from 'carrying on the business of a victualler, or a Beershop Keeper or Tallow Chandler or any noisy noisome or offensive trade . . . [or] burning or permitting to be burnt

any clay for bricks or pottery upon the land conveyed'.[115] The place-name element 'hill' in late Victorian times had healthy connotations in the context of drainage, while the element 'common' suggested the possibility of undesirable neighbours. On constituting the first local government board to serve the whole area in 1879 the local worthies were doubtless proud to call it 'The Burgess Hill Local Board', thus establishing the name of the modern town.[116]

Burgess Hill farm was divided by the railway, its 'top' section accommodating some substantial Victorian mansions, now demolished. The remainder survived unscathed until the 1950s when the modern phase of development began in earnest. In ignorance of its history, the farmhouse was pulled down, thereby denying the future townspeople a significant piece of their heritage. In the late 1500s it had been owned by an elderly widow who was 'presented' in the manorial courts in 1600 and 1607 for dilapidations. In 1612 it was purchased by John Rowe, steward of the Earl of Abergavenny, as an investment for his two

Fig. 4.   Burgess Hill Farm (demolished), from *Burgess Hill, its History and Guide* (c. 1912).

sons.[117] It is to this period, therefore, that its construction, or drastic renovation, should be attributed. It appears from old photographs to have been a brick structure with stone-mullioned windows (Fig. 4). Its bricks were likely to have been of local fabric, brickmaking having been established on the common nearby at that date.

The farm itself was rich in meadow land, sheltered on three sides by the hill and watered by springs rising from the sandstone. By a happy quirk of history much of this land has escaped housing development and remains as the playing fields of Oakmeeds school, a name which echoes a little of the early topography of this part of the Weald.

CONCLUSION

The Wealden landscape has been gradually transformed from one of isolated hamlets and farms to one in which open areas are havens for recreation in a countryside tailored to urban needs. Unlike the regions of earliest settlement, much of this process has taken place since medieval times, within the period for which written records exist. Since the evolution of local names is part of the evolution of the countryside, the discovery of former names can add depth to existing knowledge. In Burgess Hill's case, the recovery of the medieval name for St. John's Common is of intrinsic interest, while the discovery of the full extent of medieval Frekebergh helps to qualify existing research into this particular woodland. The rise of 'Burgess Hill' and the loss of 'St. John's Common' show how the evolution of place names in a period of rapidly changing colonization can be determined by whim or chance, rather than by geography and logic.

The fact that Burgess Hill now has an urban face makes the recovery of its former rural shape the more intriguing. However, the rural parts of the Weald also have an evolutionary past. Man's gradual conversion to agriculture of the old Wealden woods and commons will rarely be recorded on maps before the Enclosure Acts of the 18th and 19th centuries, but clues to the process may be provided by manorial records. Much scope must surely remain elsewhere in the Sussex Weald for those with a close knowledge of their area to examine the changes in place names and topography from medieval times onwards, and so to add a further dimension to our understanding of Wealden colonization.

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Notes

[1] For the formation of the first local board and the later urban district, see C. D. Meeds ('Historicus'), *Historical Notes of Burgess Hill* (Haywards Heath, 1893). Pieces relating to early administration in Burgess Hill can be found in A. H. Gregory, *The Story of Burgess Hill* (Haywards Heath, 1933).

[2] The main series of records of all four manors are currently

held at East Sussex Record Office (hereafter E.S.R.O.), viz. SAS/ABER 1–22 (Keymer, 1598–1628 and Ditchling, 1598–1842); SAS/Acc 964–82 (Keymer, 1630–1925); ADA 1–5 (Clayton, 1598–1922); ADA 16, 17 (Wickham, 1665–1901); see also *The Book of John Rowe*, ed. W. H. Godfrey (Suss. Rec. Soc. **34**).

[3] *Victoria County History, Sussex,* **7** (1940), 1–7 (for devolution of the manors as part of the barony of Lewes), 104–5 (Ditchling), 141–2 (Clayton and Wickham), 179–80 (Keymer); C. O. Bridgeman, 'The Devolution of the Sussex Manors Formerly Belonging to the Earls of Warenne and Surrey', *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **56** (1914), 54–92, and 'The Sussex Manors of the Earls of Warenne', *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **57** (1915), 185–96; W. C. Renshaw, 'The Manor of Keymer with some Ecclesiastical Notes', *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **54** (1911), 6–31. For 16th- and 17th-century enclosure in Plumpton, Streat and Westmeston see P. Brandon, 'The Common Lands and Wastes of Sussex' (London Univ. Ph.D. thesis, 1963), 151, 158–60.

[4] 10 Geo. III, c. 95 (Local Act).

[5] E.S.R.O., QDD/6/E 17 (1829); P. Brandon, 'The Enclosure of the Keymer Commons', *Suss. N. & Q.* **15** (1960), 181–6.

[6] A. Gray, *The London Brighton Line 1841–1977,* 24–5.

[7] E.S.R.O., QDD/6/E 8 (1857).

[8] *A Very Improving Neighbourhood: Burgess Hill 1840–1914,* ed. B. Short (Brighton, 1984).

[9] E.S.R.O., SAS/Acc 964–8, *passim.*

[10] E.S.R.O., SAS/Acc 969, *passim.*

[11] Public Record Office (hereafter P.R.O.), SC 5, Sussex, 1, m.4, transcribed in the Record Commissioners' edition and translated by L. F. Salzman in *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **82–4**, but wrongly rendered as Scottesford in both.

[12] Arundel Castle (hereafter A.C.), MS. M 529.

[13] *Records of the Barony and Honour of the Rape of Lewes,* ed. A. J. Taylor (Suss. Rec. Soc. **44**), 25.

[14] West Sussex Record Office (hereafter W.S.R.O.), Add. MS. 17372; *Suss. N. & Q.* **2** (1929), 220.

[15] *Suss. Rec. Soc.* **10**, 46.

[16] A.C., MS. M 529.

[17] British Library (hereafter B.L.), Add. Ch. 28288.

[18] W.S.R.O., Add. MSS. 17266–7.

[19] *Suss. Rec. Soc.* **44**, 63, 66, again wrongly rendered as Scotesford. While there is no doubt that the reading should be Stotesford, I have been unable to check the originals as they are now missing from the muniments at Arundel Castle.

[20] A.C., MS. A 1869.

[21] E.S.R.O., AMS 4726.

[22] For example, see *Suss. Rec. Soc.* **44,** 62, 66; original account rolls survive for 1481 (A.C., MS. A 1869), 1497 (P.R.O., SC 6/Hen. VII/1474), 1523 (A.C., MS. A 476), 1532 (P.R.O., SC 6/Hen. VIII/6158) and 1534 (B.L., Add. Ch. 71285). Much of their content is identical and must be used with caution, pre-Black Death personal names being cited indiscriminately alongside contemporary ones.

[23] My thanks to Dr. Richard Coates, University of Sussex, for this suggestion. See his layman's guide to the use of the various works of reference in place-name interpretation in R. Coates, *The Linguistic History of Early Sussex* (Brighton, 1983), 24–35.

[24] I. D. Margary, *Roman Ways in the Weald,* 93–8; for local use of the word *stot* see L. F. Salzman, 'The Property of the Earl of Arundel, 1397', *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **91** (1953), 38–9.

[25] *Suss. Rec. Soc.* **44**, 25.

[26] B.L., Add. Ch. 28304; W.S.R.O., Add. MS. 17242.

[27] W.S.R.O., Add. MSS. 17266–7.

[28] E.S.R.O., QO/EW 13.

[29] *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **25** (1873), 163–203; ibid. **40** (1896), 131–61.

[30] Brighton Reference Library, Stanmer House Building Account 1722–7 (ref. Z 7443; classmark S9 STA DUB).

[31] Ibid. p. 14; and see S. P. Farrant, 'The Building of Stanmer House and the Early Development of the Park, c. 1720 to 1750', *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **117** (1979), 195–9.

[32] E.S.R.O., SAS/ABER 2, f. 11.

[33] *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **98** (1960), 130.

[34] E.S.R.O., DAN 1126, f. 229a.

[35] E.S.R.O., DYK 1122.

[36] E.S.R.O., ABE 18R/1, f. 25v. The tenement from which iron ore was dug can be adduced from the name of its tenant to be Sheddingdean, now the Sheddingdean Estate, Burgess Hill.

[37] E.S.R.O., ABE 18R/2, ff. 4v.–5.

[38] E.S.R.O., DAN 1126, ff. 228v.–229.

[39] E.S.R.O., SAS/ABER 1, f. 79; *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **13** (1861), 46.

[40] This assessment was made by Fred Avery, Ann Phillips and the author (members of the Burgess Hill Local History Society) on a visit during building alterations; it awaits the confirmation of a specialist in domestic architecture.

[41] A.C., MS. M 529, a composite court roll (1343–4) of Keymer, Clayton and other manors, provides sufficient information to collate with the early 14th-century lay subsidies and the later manorial records, to deduce settlement by the end of the early medieval period of all the major farms around St. John's Common.

[42] *Victoria County History, Sussex,* **7**, 123.

[43] *Suss. Rec. Soc.* **46**, 316; *Valor Ecclesiasticus* (Record Commission), **1**, 334.

[44] A.C., MS. M 529.

[45] See sources cited in note 22.

[46] *Sussex Subsidies for the Years 1296, 1327, 1332,* ed. W. Hudson (Suss. Rec. Soc. **10**), 46, 176.

[47] Meeds, *Burgess Hill,* 7–8.

[48] The name 'Fayre Place', or 'Place where the fairs are held', is cited throughout the Keymer and Clayton manorial records of the 17th century onwards (for refs. see note 2); see also *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **58** (1916), 18.

[49] F. E. Sawyer, 'Sussex Markets and Fairs', *Suss. Arch. Coll.* **36** (1888), 183.

[50] See ch. 6 of M. Gelling, *Signposts to the Past* (1978), for discussion of the creation of Saxon parish boundaries.

[51] P.R.O., E 40/14149.

[52] E.S.R.O., DYK 1122.

[53] W.S.R.O., Add. MSS. 17266–7, 17389; E.S.R.O., SAS/Acc 964–71, *passim.*

[54] *Suss. Rec. Soc.* **34,** 39, 40.

[55] E.S.R.O., SAS/Acc 981.

[56] W.S.R.O., Add. MSS. 27013–18; E.S.R.O., SAS/Acc 964 sqq., *passim.*

[57] J. Dunning, *The Roman Road to Portslade* (1925), 58; I. D. Margary, *Roman Ways in the Weald,* 100.

[58] *Place-Names of Sussex,* ed. A. Mawer & F. M. Stenton, **2** (1930), 277.

[59] *Suss. Rec. Soc.* **10**, 52, 179, 293.

[60] B.L., Add. Ch. 28304.

[61] E.S.R.O., SAS/ABER 1, f. 121v.; and see C. Somers Clarke (then lord of the manor of Keymer), 'Valebridge', *Suss. N. & Q.* **3** (1930), 97–8. His account is wrong in respect of the Old Mill, however, which was held of Houndean manor, not Keymer.

[62] *Suss. Rec. Soc.* **34**, 127.

[63] E.S.R.O., QO/EW 18–19.

[64] E.S.R.O., MOB 1519.
[65] J. L. M. Gulley, 'The Wealden Landscape in the Early 17th Century and its Antecedents' (London Univ. Ph.D. thesis, 1960), Appendix states that the tenants of Keymer, in using Westwood Common, were encroaching upon the territory of another manor.
[66] E.S.R.O., QDE/3/E 1/3; QDE/3/E 3/109; QDP/E 82,88; P.R.O., HO 107/1111, ff. 1–47.
[67] T. W. Horsfield, *The History, Antiquities and Topography of the County of Sussex* (Lewes, 1835) 1, 242; M. A. Lower, *A Compendious History of Sussex* (Lewes, 1870), 2, 2.
[68] Quoted by Dunning, *Roman Road to Portslade,* 100.
[69] Margary, *Roman Ways in the Weald,* 100.
[70] E.S.R.O., QDE/3/E 29/105, the earliest reference found for the name, though by no means all possible 19th-century sources have been searched.
[71] E.S.R.O., SAS/Acc 964–71, *passim.*
[72] A free chase was an area of ground over which the king had given dispensation for his tenants in chief to hunt freely the beasts of the chase, that is the deer and the boar. Unlike parks, free chases were not necessarily fenced and enclosed, although Gulley, 'Wealden Landscape', has shown that in Sussex they could be.
[73] The Keymer tithe map of 1845 is post-railway, but original field boundaries can be seen on the sectional plan of Rennie's 'Direct' route of 1837: E.S.R.O., TD/E 77; QDP/E 162. However, several farms were in one ownership, which obscures the original bounds of the older units.
[74] *Suss. Rec. Soc.* 34, 38.
[75] A.C., MS. A 1862.
[76] A.C., MS. M 529.
[77] E.S.R.O., SAS/FIG 233; *Suss. Rec. Soc.* 34, 43.
[78] *Chartulary of the Priory of St. Pancras of Lewes,* ed. L. F. Salzman (Suss. Rec. Soc. 38); *Victoria County History, Sussex,* 7, 105.
[79] J. E. A. Jolliffe, *Pre-Feudal England: The Jutes,* esp. ch. 2, in which he touches on the manor of Ditchling and land tenure in Sussex; K. P. Witney, *The Jutish Forest: a Study of the Weald of Kent from 450 to 1380 AD.*
[80] A study of tenure in the manors of Clayton, Wickham and Keymer and its implications for early settlement is at present in preparation by the author.
[81] W.S.R.O., Par. 407/6/1; B.L., Add. MS. 5683, f. 197v.
[82] *Suss. Rec. Soc.* 34, 32.
[83] Variant spellings as found in A.C., MS. M 529 (1343-4) and E.S.R.O., ADA 1 (1596–1766).
[84] *Place-Names of Sussex,* ed. Mawer & Stenton, 2, 301-2.
[85] *Victoria County History, Sussex,* 7, 105; and see *Suss. Arch. Coll.* 16 (1864), 135-6.
[86] Gulley, 'Wealden Landscape', 245; Brandon, 'Commons and Wastes of Sussex', 166.
[87] e.g. *Suss. Rec. Soc.* 44, 29, 40, 46; *Calendar of Close Rolls, 1296–1302,* 297, 591.
[88] Information collated from A.C., MS. A 1916; E.S.R.O., ABE 18R/1, 2, and *Suss. Rec. Soc.* 34, 33.
[89] For use of the word *cant* c. 1600 in the Vert Wood, Laughton, see B.L., Add. MS. 33142.
[90] E.S.R.O., DAN 1126, f. 227.
[91] *Suss. Rec. Soc.* 38, 35.
[92] For example Frick Farm, Chailey, Vert Wood, Laughton, and in Kent the North and South Frith, Tonbridge.
[93] See *Place-Names of Sussex,* ed. Mawer & Stenton, 2, 301 for some of the medieval and Tudor variants. Others occur in A.C., MSS. M 529; A 1862; A 1916.
[94] E.S.R.O., TD/E 103; O.S. Map 1″, old series (1813 edn.); E.S.R.O., LT/Ditchling (1780–1832).
[95] E.S.R.O., DYK 1122, and inf. from R. F. Mason, Franklands, Burgess Hill.
[96] In the opinion of Dr. Richard Coates, University of Sussex, there can be no philological link between the two names Frekebergh and Burgess Hill, and the apparent link between Burgess Hill and Burwash is accidental. However, until early medieval references can be found to the hill of Burgess Hill, the meaning of its name should surely remain open to debate.
[97] See sources cited in note 2.
[98] A.C., MS. A 1916.
[99] *Suss. Rec. Soc.* 34, 38.
[100] A.C., MS. A 1916.
[101] See *Suss. Rec. Soc.* 34, 38; E.S.R.O., SAS/ABER 1, *passim.*
[102] B.L., Egerton MS. 1967, f. 35.
[103] Ibid.; this is the only surviving reference to the name Fountelande. When the full series of manor of Keymer records commence in 1598 the half virgate had been merged into 'Burgeshilland', and its name 'lost'.
[104] *Suss. Rec. Soc.* 10, 46, 177, 290. These are the only references to Burgeys, who is not mentioned in the surviving Keymer halmote roll of 1343–4; the family seem to have left no further trace locally.
[105] *Suss. Arch. Coll.* 47 (1904), 156-7.
[106] *Place-Names of Sussex,* ed. Mawer & Stenton, 2, 461.
[107] The early medieval park at Burwash contained tilled land within it: Gulley, 'Wealden Landscape', 317–18. Topographical possibilities in Burgess Hill's case might include *burh* or *beorg* compounded with O.E. *haese,* 'brushwood' or 'underwood', or with M. E. *hay* from O. E. *(ge)haeg,* 'enclosure', especially used in the sense 'hunting enclosure'.
[108] M. Gelling, 'Latin Loan-words in Old English Place Names' in *Anglo-Saxon England,* ed. P. Clemoes, 6 (1977), 1–13, and *Signposts to the Past.* ch. 6, for discussion of *burh, beorg* and other words which may indicate pre-Saxon remains. During road works in 1983 near the site of Burgess Hill Farmhouse at a depth of about 6 ft. a patch of black soil was visible, contrasting markedly with the surrounding strata of intermixed yellow clay and sand. The site was, however, closed over again without further investigation.
[109] A toponymic surname from Burwash is evidenced in *Suss. Rec. Soc.* 38 and 40, *passim.*
[110] e.g. E.S.R.O., SAS/Acc 965, m.6 (1644) and SAS/Acc 967, p. 51.
[111] E.S.R.O., QDP/E 162.
[112] C. G. Harper, *The Brighton Road* (1906 edn.), 388.
[113] Meeds, *Burgess Hill,* 13–16.
[114] W.S.R.O., Add. MSS. 18622-8.
[115] E.S.R.O., SAS/EG 397.
[116] Meeds, *Burgess Hill,* 44.
[117] E.S.R.O., SAS/ABER 1, ff. 46, 135, 202.